



Park & Recreation Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

October 21, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
Honorable member of the Planning Commission

Re: Arlandria-Chirilagua Small Area Plan Update

The Park and Recreation Commission expresses our support for the Arlandria –Chirilagua Small Area Plan Update. The Commission was recently presented with the Small Area Plan update on two occasions, May 21, 2021, and September 23, 2021. It has been reassuring to see the plan progress over the past two years, through an intensive community engagement progress using social media and pop-up events, especially to engage our Spanish speaking residents. The plan addresses community feedback for open spaces that act like extensions of home, providing safe, welcoming, and comfortable ways to socialize with neighbors and community within walking distance.

Specifically, the plan addresses these community needs by expanding the open space network with nine new neighborhood parks and urban plazas. New open spaces and existing parks such as Le Bosquet Sunnyside and Elbert Triangle, will be designed to accommodate users of all ages and enhance play opportunities for children. These vibrant spaces will recognize the unique cultural history of the neighborhood through public art, murals and other expressive design. The plan addresses other community recreation needs with opportunities for seating, picnics, grilling, restrooms, cultural programming and special events. The network of public spaces will be ground level accessible and will provide trail connections to existing parks such as Hillside Park and Four Mile Run Park. Finally, the Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Plan will continue to be implemented as properties redevelop along the stream.

The Arlandria-Chirilagua neighborhood is unique with diverse attributes and underserved communities. We are eager to see this plan come to fruition and to see new publicly accessible open space support Arlandria-Chirilagua for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina Baum", is written over a horizontal line.

Gina Baum, Chair
Park & Recreation Commission

cc Park & Recreation Commission members
Mark Jinks, City Manager
Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Karl Moritz, Director, Planning and Zoning
Jack Browand, Acting Deputy Director, Commission Staff Liaison